

LITTERATURE

Biannual Newsletter

Winter 2005

FEATURED GROUP

Each Litterature features an outstanding Adopt-A-Highway group (AAH). If you would like to share your group's story, please call 1-800-331-5864 and ask for George.

South Guilford High Environmental Science of Guilford County

How do you get young people involved in litter prevention and overall caring about their environment?

Over the past ten years Brent Wuchae, (pronounced Woo-shay), a science teacher at South Guilford High (SGH) in Greensboro, has promoted and encouraged SGH students to clean-up roadside litter while supporting recycling initiatives.

In 1998, Wuchae learned of the AAH program. He inquired about adopting a roadside near South Guilford High. Shortly thereafter he formed the South Guilford High



Environmental Science (SGHES) AAH group.

Currently SGHES has adopted 4.4 miles, which includes Drake Road from Wall Road to NC 62 and Wall Road from Drake Road to Groometown Road.



SGHES AAH group

SGHES has 20-25 students who are 14 to 18 years old. They participate, with adult supervision, to clean their adopted roadsides.

In addition, SGHES separates the litter for recycling. A recycling bin near the school makes it easier for the group to take part in salvaging reusable metal, plastic and glass.

When asked to describe the type litter found on their adopted roadways, Wuchae said, "We find most of the trash accumulated along the

intersections – aluminum, plastic and glass drink containers."

To round out the students' environmental and recycling knowledge, the group has taken field trips to the county recycling center and the Piedmont Environmental Agency.

The tour of the recycling center offers information regarding how the material is broken down and how it can be converted for future use.

Last year NC AAH groups recycled more than 383,380 pounds of reusable materials. This breaks down to 168,660 pounds of metal, 93,520 pounds of plastic and 121,200 pounds of glass.

Wuchae is certainly dedicated to teaching and creating an atmosphere that helps to encourage a new generation of environmental stewards.

The latest news is that Wuchae is on his way to Brunswick County where he has a new teaching position. Becky Hypes will be the new leader for the SGHES AAH group.

Wuchae told us he would start an AAH group at his new school.

From all of us in the Office of Beautification Programs, we applaud the efforts of Wuchae and all the students participating in the AAH program. We wish Wuchae well at his new school and Hypes continued success with the SGHES AAH group.

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Is It Time To Renew?

Each Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) agreement establishes a four-year relationship in the adoption of a specific roadside section. At the end of the period, it is necessary to renew the agreement to continue as an authorized AAH group.

When is your renewal date? To find this information, call the AAH Hotline at 1-800-628-4394. Simply follow the instructions and provide the information about your AAH group. To use the AAH Hotline, you will need to know your two digit county number and four digit contract number. When the menu offers you to select an option, select option three and you will hear your AAH Agreement expiration date.

What's needed to renew? Complete an AAH agreement renewal form and send to your local AAH Coordinator.

If you have access to a computer, you can download the renewal form from www.ncdot.org/~beautification within the AAH Administration - Forms link.

You also can call your local AAH Coordinator for assistance. The coordinator's phone number can be found on the Litter Sweep packet's AAH Coordinator listing by county or you can call 1-800-331-5864 for the phone number.

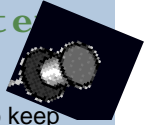
Maintaining an approved AAH Agreement is critical to keep everyone informed of the latest AAH news and information. Please check your agreement's status. If it is expired, please call us if we can assist you in the renewal process.



coming up

Spring Litter Sweep
April 16 - 30, 2005

Litter and Water Quality?



One of the NCDOT goals is to keep the state's water at its highest level of quality. You can help! Visit the "NCDOT's Anti-Litter Efforts" link at www.ncdot.org/~beautification. Scroll down and look for the "Clean Water" heading. You'll find a copy of the *Help Reduce Water Pollution Along NC Highways* brochure. It provides information about stormwater concerns and how to report what you've found. This brochure is also in a printable pdf format.

Office of Beautification Programs Homepage

The Office of Beautification Programs homepage has a wealth of information. Visit www.ncdot.org/~beautification.

Did you know the Governor's Litter Report is listed within the Current Events/News link? OR that you could report vehicles involved in a littering offense on-line through the Swat-A-Litterbug link? OR that you could download an application to enter the Litter Prevention Contest? This information and more can be found through our homepage.

Here is a list of the links and a brief description of each:

- **Butterfly** - All about the Monarch Butterfly Program
- **Rest Area** - Brochure showing the primary and interstate highway rest areas
- **Wildflower** - All about the Wildflower Program
- **Litter Law** - Links to the litter law and NC General Assembly homepage
- **Litter Sweep** - All about Litter Sweep with forms, posters, Unusual Litter Contest etc
- **Scenic Byways** - *NC Scenic Byways* book on-line
- **Swat-A-Litterbug** - Reporting litterbugs on-line
- **Adopt-A-Highway** - All about adopting a highway, agreements, forms, safety tips, etc...
- **Current Events/News** - This newsletter, Interagency Litter Report, news articles, etc...
- **Keep America Beautiful (KAB)** - Links to KAB county contact list, homepage, etc...
- **Litter Prevention Contest** - Guidelines, entry form and previous winners
- **NCDOT's Anti-Litter Efforts** - Educational curriculums, water quality, and more
- **Beauty-Fly Mascot/Litter Activity Book** - Costume and activity book download
- **Senator Albertson's Mean about Clean Jingle**

We invite everyone to visit our site and please feel free to share this information with others!

AAH Coordinator Profile

Forsyth County Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

Darlene Bennett

Title: Processing Assistant II

Location: Winston-Salem

Years as AAH Coordinator: 2

by **George Kapetanakis**

Darlene Bennett has been with the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for five years. She began as a temporary employee answering the phone and filing miscellaneous documents. One year later she became a permanent employee at which time she also took on responsibilities of Assistant AAH Coordinator.

Since then, Darlene has been promoted to Processing Assistant II and she is also the AAH Coordinator for Forsyth County. Along with her responsibilities as AAH Coordinator, she also administers all internal purchase orders for rock and asphalt requirements.

Darlene's spare time is spent primarily with her family and church. She is on the board of King Dolphin football. In the past, she coached cheerleading for five years. She has also been involved in fundraising events.

I had the opportunity to visit with Darlene (DB) and here are the questions and answers from our conversation.

GK: Darlene tell me about the AAH program here in Forsyth County.

DB: Our maintenance yard has 987 miles of state maintained roads. Of the 987 miles, there are 189 miles that have been adopted by AAH volunteers.

GK: How many road miles do you have open for adoption?

DB: There are approximately 600 miles open for adoption.



GK: In looking at the AAH groups, how many do you have and what types of volunteers are involved?

DB: There are currently 97 AAH groups with more than 10% being "In Memory of" someone. The next largest group classification is the family group type.

DB also explained that she kept track of the current AAH groups' adopted roadsides and the roads open for adoption by marking and labeling all the adopted sites on a large map.

GK: As an AAH Coordinator, what is your biggest challenge?

DB: It all deals with awareness. It's important to create more program awareness and get more volunteers participating to keep Forsyth County roadsides litter free. When Litter Sweep comes along, I place posters wherever I can to increase the awareness/response factor.

GK: Our Fall Litter Sweep just ended, how well did your AAH groups participate?

DB: All our groups got out and helped clean the roadsides. We picked up enough litter to fill about 800 bags.

GK: Darlene, do you work with any other local groups during Litter Sweep?

DB: To ensure we keep our county looking clean, I work with the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) here in Forsyth County. We try to run our cleanups simultaneously so we can be more effective.

GK: Over the years, what's been the most unusual litter found along the roadsides?

DB: There have been various items, but the most unusual ones have been the car parts from vehicles dating from the 1940's and 50's.

Darlene, thanks for sharing your thoughts.

From everyone within the Office of Beautification Programs, we also want to thank you, the AAH volunteers and NCDOT crews that help to keep the roads throughout Forsyth County free of litter.

To Report Cleanups: Please call 1-800-628-4394

Why is it important to call in your litter pick up reports? The main reason is to efficiently schedule the NCDOT crews to pick up and dispose of the orange bags. The next reason is to capture the AAH volunteer efforts in keeping the roadsides clean – this describes the value of volunteer participation and the overall importance of the AAH program. Please call 1-800-628-4394 to let us know your contract and county number, how many people worked, hours each worked, how many bags of trash were filled and if the bags need to be picked up. This can also be done by visiting www.ncdot.org/~beautification and clicking first on the Adopt-A-Highway link and then on AAH Group Cleanup Report - Report On-line.

NC AAH Groups Support 2004 Spring Litter Sweep

More Than 3 Million Pounds of Litter Picked Up

During the 2004 Spring Litter Sweep, more than three million pounds of litter, 200,000 bags, were removed from roadsides across the state. This number represents a 10 percent increase in the amount picked up during the 2003 Spring Litter Sweep.

NCDOT employees, thousands of statewide volunteers and Department of Correction (DOC) inmates took to the roadsides during this year's Litter Sweep - the last two weeks of April. Volunteers included Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) groups, garden clubs, civic groups and other community organizations. The AAH volunteers collected more than 35 percent of the litter cleanup amounts reported.

Listed are the quantities of bags filled by the various participants in the 2004 Spring Litter Sweep.

- 19,130 bags by NCDOT crews
- 88,648 bags by inmates on DOC road squads and community work
- 16,390 bags by Community Service Work Program
- 77,370 bags by Adopt-A-Highway and Litter Sweep volunteers statewide

Entries in the department's "Most Unusual Litter" contest once again confirmed that North Carolina is faced with a wide variety of roadside trash. Winning items during the Spring Litter Sweep included a sword with sheath, Charlotte Hornets 1991 game notes with autographs and a child's potty chair. Winners and photos can be viewed below and by visiting at www.ncdot.org/~beautification and clicking on the Litter Sweep link.

MOST UNUSUAL LITTER SPRING CONTEST WINNERS

1



Tony Thomas - Sword
1st Prize Winner
In Memory of Carrie B. Gallimore
Asheboro

2



Sandra K. Shelton -
Charlotte Hornets Game Notes
w/Autographs
2nd Prize Winner
Beechwood Estates
Salisbury

3



Sherry Torbush - Child's Potty Chair
3rd Prize Winner
In Loving Memory of
Patrick W Torbush
Bolivia, NC

online Safety Information

Volunteers can access the following safety information from www.ncdot.org/~adopt-a-highway:

- AAH Safety Rules and Guidelines For Volunteers
- AAH Safety Rules and Guidelines For Volunteers (en Espanol)
- AAH Safety Guidelines Regarding Hazardous Material
- AAH Safety Video Clip
- AAH Safety Video - English and Spanish (complete three part versions)
- Meth Lab Waste Recognition Video by the Colorado DOT (7.53 minutes).

Safety tip

Methamphetamine is a highly restricted drug that is being illegally produced nationwide in homemade laboratories. Unfortunately, the roadside dumping of illegal meth lab waste material is becoming a serious problem in North Carolina, especially in our most mountainous counties.

Portable meth labs and their toxic waste have been discarded as trash on roadsides, in fields and in wooded areas. These dumping grounds may contain propane tanks, empty 2-liter pop bottles, empty starting fluid cans, rock salt, stained materials (red and brown), empty acetone or camping fuel containers, and miscellaneous glassware.

Please be very careful if you discover a meth lab or any of the items that may have been used as a meth lab discarded on the roadside. Do not approach or attempt to remove these items. Instead, call your AAH Coordinator and your local law enforcement agency immediately. They will investigate the situation and have the dangerous materials removed from the roadside.

Safety Guideline Review

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to pick up litter on the roadside. Children aged 12 to 17 are required to be supervised by adults aged 21 or older. In addition, a group must have an adequate number of adults on hand to supervise its youth members. All participants must view the NC AAH Safety and the Colorado Meth Lab Waste Recognition video.

Special safety guidelines that all volunteers should be reminded of prior to each cleanup include the following:

- No horseplay or waving of arms that might distract drivers;
- Do not wear headsets while cleaning the roadside;
- Do not overstuff bags – when a bag feels heavy, tie it, leave it by the roadside and get another orange bag;
- See and be seen by working in small groups, facing traffic and wearing orange safety vests;
- For younger volunteers, do not pick up broken glass, knives or dangerous items - instead call these items to the attention of an adult volunteer;
- Stay alert and well away from the road; and
- Think “safety first” at all times while on the roadside.

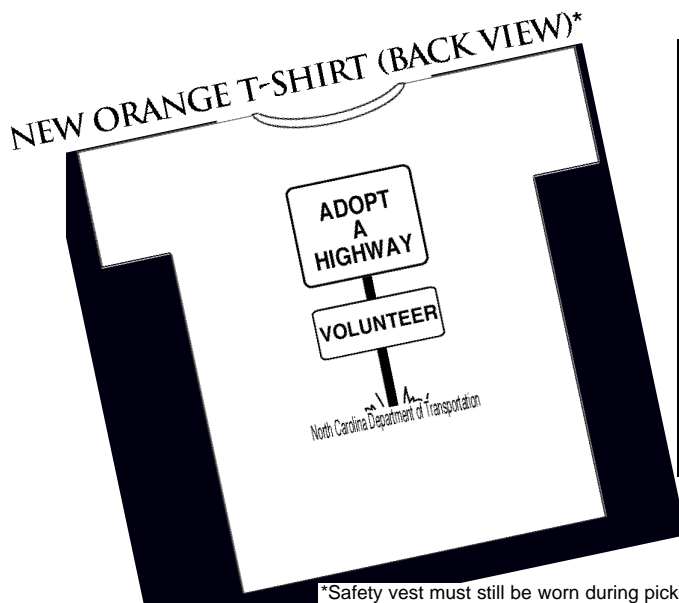
NC Interagency Report on Litter Cleanup, Education/Prevention and Enforcement

What is it? Where is it? How often is it updated?

The reason we have a Litter Report is to inform the state’s legislators regarding statewide roadside litter cleanup. The report provides the information regarding how much litter government agencies and volunteer groups picked up. It also provides information regarding litter prevention/education and litter law enforcement.

This report can be found at www.ncdot.org/~beautification within the Current Events/News link. Just look for the Litter Report and the Updated Litter Report.

A litter report is posted to the web site every six months. The first is compiled for the previous year (January through December) and is posted the following March. The other is a recap of the current year’s period of January through June. It’s posted in September.



*Safety vest must still be worn during pick-ups

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Make checks payable to:
NCDOT Litter Prevention Fund
and mail to: 1540 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1540

LITTERATURE

is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

JANUARY 17 - MONDAY
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

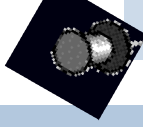
JANUARY 20 - THURSDAY
Inauguration Day

APRIL 16 - APRIL 30
Spring Litter Sweep

APRIL 23 - SATURDAY
Earth Day

MAY 30 - MONDAY
Memorial Day

JULY 4 - MONDAY
Independence Day



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